(b) if so, the details of the strategy adopted and the number of infiltrators nabbed during the last six months; and

(c) to what extent the new strategy would strengthen the position at borders to check any kind of infiltrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the unabated efforts of Pakistan to infiltrate trained and armed terrorists across the LOO Border into Jammu and Kashmir, continuous vigilance is being maintained by the Security Forces to check and contain the same. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipments, including night vision devices etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOOBorder and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committee in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies, etc. The arrangements are being kept under regular review to deal with the situation and development on a continuing basis.

According to available information, 68 infiltrators were killed and 267 were apprehended by the BSF troops in the area of their deployment on the border during the last six months.

Handing over of ONGC oil fields to private consortia

1848. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain oil fields discovered and developed by the ONGC have been handed over to private consortia without any compensation to the ONGC, resulting in huge loss to the ONGC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these oil fields have been handed over to the private consortia at the behest of the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof, stating the loss incurred by the ONGC as a result thereof; and

(d) the reasons for handing over these oil fields to private consortia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Discovered oil fields have been offered for development by joint ventures in pursuance of a policy decision of the Government. These fields have been awarded through international competitive bidding. In the bids, signature and production bonuses are biddable items and proceeds on these accounts go to ONGC. In addition, wherever the ecnomics of the projects so permits, there has been separate compensation for past costs incurred to ONGC.

(d) The reasons for offering these fields for private participation include:

(i) Marginal economics of some of the fields.

(ii) Low reserves of the small fields offered.

(iii) To augment total investment in exploration and development.

(iv) To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.

(v) For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.

(vi) To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

भूकंपीय प्रयोगशाला स्थापित किया जाना

1849. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र सरकार और अन्य राज्य सरकारों ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से विभिन्न राज्यों में भूकम्प की

घटनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए आधुनिक भूकम्पीय प्रयोगशाला खोलने और इनके चलते-फिरते एकक शुरू करने का अनुरोध किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है?

योजना तथा कार्यक्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र के• अलघ): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) हाल में महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, सिक्किम तथा बिहार की सरकारों ने अपने राज्यों में आधुनिक वेधशालाएं स्थापित किए जाने का अनुरोध किया था। इसके अलावा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, उड़ीसा तथा केरल ने इन राज्यों में मौजूदा भूकंपीय गतिविधियों को देखते हुए चलते फिरते एककों के साथ सूक्ष्म भूकंप सर्वेक्षण करने का अनुरोध किया है। नई भूकंपीय वेधशालाएं लातूर (महाराष्ट्र) साहिबगंज (बिहार), भोपाल (मध्य प्रदेश) और सिलीगुड़ी (सिक्किम के निकट पश्चिम बंगाल) में स्थापित की गई हैं। हिमाचल प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, तमिलनाडु, केरल और महाराष्ट्र में चलती-फिरती वेधशालाएं प्रयुक्त कर सूक्ष्म-भूकंप सर्वेक्षण किया गया है।

Reviewing the Decision to Award Ratna-R Series Oil Fields to Essar Group

1850. SHRI: KANAKSINH MOHAN-SINH MANGROLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it * is a fact that Government rushed through the award of Ratna Rseries oil fields to the Essar group just before the elections, thereby violating the model code of conduct set down by the Election Commission;

(b) whether the production sharing contracts for these fields have been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government now plan to review the decision of the previous Government to award these fields with great urgency before the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal at present to review the decision to award the Ratna-R-series oil fields to M/s. essar Oil Ltd., India and Premier Oil Pacific Ltd. of U.K.

Sefety of People Around Atomic Units

1851. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-RAO PATIL: Will tfce PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has raised doubts and objections regarding the safety of various atomic units;

(b) whather Atomic Energy Commission has taken adequate measures to safeguard the population living around these units to prevent Chernobyl type of disasters;

(c) in what marine the liquid and solied wastes from the nuclear power plants are being disposed of and whether Mumbai is seriously exposed to radiation hazards; and

(d) what recommendations the outgoing Chairman, the distinguished scientist Dr. Rajgopal has made and how many of his suggestions have been implemented by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has proposed certain measures for upgradation of safety.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The nuclear power plants generate low and intermediate level of radioactive